

REMARKS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) accompanies this response. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the IDS and make the reference cited therein of record in the application. In addition, the Applicant submits that the Examiner has not yet signed the Information Disclosure Statements submitted on March 27, 2004, May 22, 2004. Since these Information Disclosure Statements were timely submitted, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider them and make the references cited therein of record in the application.

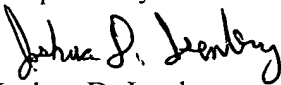
CLAIM REJECTIONS – NON-STATUTORY DOUBLE PATENTING

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-29 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 2-26 of copending Application 09/853,870. Since this is a judicially created double-patenting rejection, the Applicants submit that the rejection can be obviated by filing a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) (see 37 CFR 1.130(b)). To expedite prosecution, the Assignee of the present application files herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) along with the appropriate fee. Therefore, the Applicants submit that the rejections are overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer and the above remarks, the Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the application and issue a Notice of Allowance in the next Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,


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